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CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

Report of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery on its twenty-first session

Chairperson-Rapporteur: Mrs. Halima Embarek Warzazi

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Introduction

1. Upon the recommendation of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Economic and Social Council in its decisions 16 (LVI) and 17 (LVI) of 17 May 1974 authorized the Sub-Commission to establish a five-member working group to review developments in the field of slavery, the slave trade and the slavery-like practices of apartheid and colonialism, the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others as defined in the Slavery Convention of 1926, the Supplementary Convention of 1956 on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery, and the Convention of 1949 for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others. The Working Group was established in 1975 and has met regularly before each session of the Sub-Commission. In its resolution 1988/42 of 8 March 1988 the Commission on Human Rights endorsed the Sub-Commission's recommendation that the name of the Working Group should be changed to "Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery".

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

2. The Working Group held its twenty-first session from 17 to 26 June 1996. The Group held 12 meetings. The session was opened by Mr. José Ayala Lasso, High Commissioner for Human Rights. The High Commissioner made a statement in which he emphasized the unhappy fact that millions of individuals were still being kept under conditions akin to slavery all over the world. He drew the participants' attention to the report on child labour submitted by the International Labour Organization; the Working Group had for several years been alerting the international community to the persistence of that problem. He welcomed the drive which the Working Group brought to its struggle against all forms of exploitation, and in particular the productive dialogue established between States and the Group on the subject of ratification of the slavery conventions and on other matters.

3. In accordance with Sub-Commission decision 1995/119, the composition of the Working Group was as follows: Mrs. H.E. Warzazi, Mr. I. Maxim, Mr. M. Ul-Hakim, Mr. J.A. Lindgren Alves and Mr. M. Bossuyt. Mr. Lindgren Alves, who was unable to attend, was replaced by Mrs. M. Ferriol Echevarría. Mr. Ul-Hakim, not having been re-elected to membership of the Sub-Commission, was replaced by Mr. O. El-Hajjé.

4. The list of participants, including the members of the Working Group, observers for Member and non-member States, and representatives of United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and other organizations supplying information to the Working Group with its consent, is set forth in annex II to this report.

5. A list of the documents which the Working Group had before it at its twenty-first session appears in annex III.

6. At the first meeting, held on 17 June 1996, the Working Group elected Mrs. H.E. Warzazi Chairperson-Rapporteur by acclamation. The Chairperson of the Group made a statement on the persistence of slavery in the world and the

emergence of new, ever more inhuman and insidious forms of exploitation. She pointed out that the main victims of such exploitation were children; many States were trying to find ways of putting an end to all forms of exploitation.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

7. At the same meeting the Working Group adopted the agenda of the twenty-first session on the basis of the provisional agenda (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/1996/L.1). The agenda as adopted was as follows:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda.

3. Review of the implementation of and follow-up to the conventions on slavery:

   (a) Status of the conventions;

   (b) Review of information received regarding the implementation of the conventions and programmes of action.

4. United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery.

5. Review of developments in the field of contemporary forms of slavery and measures to prevent and repress all contemporary forms of slavery:

(a) Suppression of the traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others;

(b) Illegal adoptions;

(c) Traffic in human organs and tissues;

(d) Bonded labour;

(e) Child labour;

(f) Forced labour;

(g) Migrant workers;

(h) Activities of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;

(i) Activities of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women;

(j) Other matters, including early marriages, incest and detained juveniles;

6. Adoption of the report of the Working Group to the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

III. REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE CONVENTIONS ON SLAVERY

A. Status of the conventions

8. At its first meeting the Working Group examined agenda item 3 (a). The Working Group had before it reports on the status of the conventions on slavery (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/1996/2 and E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/1996/3). The Working Group also had at its disposal a list of the countries which had not ratified the conventions.

9. The Working Group, being still concerned at the slightness of the increase in the number of ratifications of the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, discussed measures which could be taken in that regard.

10. The members of the Working Group paid special attention to the countries which had not yet ratified the Convention. In accordance with a practice established at its nineteenth session, the Working Group asked the Secretariat to approach those countries and invite their representatives to meet with the members of the Working Group for an informal exchange of views.

11. The Working Group welcomed the dialogue established with such countries in the course of its previous sessions but expressed regret that none had responded to the invitation at its present session; it was to be hoped that such a dialogue would take place at the next session of the Sub-Commission.

B. Review of information received regarding the implementation of the conventions and programmes of action

12. The observer for the Action for Children Campaign reminded the Working Group of the United Kingdom Government's official position regarding that country's non-ratification of the 1949 Convention. To ratify the Convention would criminalize a wider range of activity than was actually covered by English law, and a breach of the terms of the Convention could not satisfactorily form the basis of an offence under the criminal law. He informed the Working Group of a dialogue established with members of the United Kingdom Government with a view to ratification of the Convention subject to presentation by the State of observations on or reservations to certain of its provisions.

13. The observer for Anti-Slavery International (ASI) reminded the Working Group of the proposal made at its twentieth session by Mr. Maxim, the Chairman-Rapporteur, and Mrs. Ferriol Echevarría in particular that non-governmental organizations should prepare a note explaining the provisions of the conventions on slavery in order to inform the public and encourage and facilitate ratifications. In consequence, and on the basis of the provisions of the 1926 and 1956 Conventions, his organization was submitting for the attention of the Working Group's members a note on the various slavery-like practices that required urgent action by Governments. The note identified the so-called traditional forms of slavery, such as debt bondage, bonded child labour, bonded

marriage, slavery under cover of religious practices or rituals, and more modern slavery-like practices such as bonded domestic labour and forced labour. In addition the note listed the groups that were said to be vulnerable or more liable to be subjected to such forms of exploitation, namely women, children, migrant workers, nomadic groups and indigenous populations.

14. The observer for the International Abolitionist Federation (IAF) (Geneva) reminded the Working Group of the request made by its members at its twentieth session for the preparation of a note explaining certain provisions of the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others. To her regret, her organization could not submit such a note to the Working Group at its present session, but a preliminary draft note would be submitted to its members at the forty-eighth session of the Sub-Commission.

15. The adviser to the International Labour Organization under the International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) and the observer for the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery stated that there was a shortage of information on the slavery conventions, in particular because international documents were neither translated into local languages nor distributed to local populations in simple and comprehensible terms.

16. Mr. El-Hajjé acknowledged the relevance of the suggestion that the slavery conventions should be translated into local languages, but he emphasized that in certain countries the word-of-mouth tradition carried great weight. Television and radio broadcasting should therefore be encouraged.

17. The Chairperson of the Working Group, referring to document E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/25 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Elimination of the Exploitation of Child Labour, noted with satisfaction the replies submitted by States. Such written contributions were to be encouraged.

18. Mr. Maxim drew the Working Group's attention to the many requests addressed to States for information on the implementation of international instruments. Countries of limited means had difficulty in meeting all the requests. The Group should therefore try to find a solution to that problem, for example by preparing a concise questionnaire asking for specific items of information.

19. In that connection the Chairperson of the Working Group suggested that the Secretariat should establish a data bank, by subject and by country, from which the Working Group might extract information without having to approach States.

20. With reference to document E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/25 the observer for the International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) expressed regret that the information on the memorandum of agreement concerning the abolition of child labour in the clothing industry in Bangladesh dated from 1995; it would be useful to have more up-to-date information. In response to that remark the observer for Bangladesh submitted to the members of the Working Group some additional information on the subject. The observer for IPEC added that information on children could be obtained in a few minutes on Internet, which the participants in the work of the Working Group could consult for the latest particulars.

21. The Chairperson of the Working Group drew the Group's attention to the proposal by the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH) for the establishment of machinery to follow up and implement the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.

IV. UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

22. The observer for the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, referring to the report submitted by the Secretary-General after the second session of the Board of Trustees of the Fund, drew the participants' attention to the list of States and private institutions which had made financial contributions to the Fund and the list of eight non-governmental organizations which the Board of Trustees, in accordance with its terms of reference, proposed should be invited to participate in the Working Group's current session. For lack of contributions, it had not been possible to cover the travelling and living expenses of those organizations' representatives. He keenly regretted that none of the selected organizations should be able to participate in the Group's work. He appealed to the members of the Group to find a solution that would save the Voluntary Trust Fund from indifference and stagnation. In that connection he applauded the measures which the Working Group had taken at its previous sessions.

23. Mr. Maxim reminded those present that at the twentieth session the members of the Working Group, in collaboration with the representative of the Board of Trustees of the Fund, had drawn up a letter appealing for funds which was intended for transmission to various private institutions, and that unfortunately the letter had not been sent out.

24. The Chairperson of the Working Group observed that private funds could provide substantial support for public activities; she informed the Group of the agreement reached between the Moroccan Committee of Support for UNICEF and Royal Air Maroc.

25. In that connection the observer for the International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour drew the participants' attention to the existing agreements between UNICEF on the one hand and Swissair and several banks on the other. He also mentioned the initiative taken by the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery in approaching airlines in order to secure free tickets for persons travelling to attend the Working Group's sessions. He himself, as a member of the Board of Trustees, had approached several airlines without success.

26. The Chairperson of the Working Group and the representative of the Centre for Human Rights said that, every year since the establishment of the Fund, the Commission on Human Rights had been making regular appeals to States to contribute to the Fund.

27. The observer for Anti-Slavery International observed that the absence of contributions to the Fund was due to the lack of credibility of the Fund and its activities.

28. Mr. El-Hajjé considered that the absence of contributions to the Fund was related to the unratified status of the slavery conventions. He suggested that an appeal should be made to private individuals in Geneva who might be willing to provide two or three days' lodging for the representative of a non-governmental organization participating in the Working Group's session.

29. The observer for the International Federation of University Women proposed that an appeal should be made to banks for contributions to the Fund. She further suggested that the Fund should be renamed the Voluntary Trust Fund to Assist Victims of Human Rights Violations Comparable to Slavery.

30. Mr. Maxim, supported by the other members of the Group, proposed that the letter addressed to private institutions asking them to contribute to the Fund should be revised and sent to institutions identified by the Group.

31. Mr. El-Hajjé noted that the term of office of the members of the Board of Trustees of the Fund had expired on 31 December 1995 and that two members had to be replaced. He found it regrettable that by 18 June 1996 the new members had still not been appointed. As he saw it, moreover, the Board of Trustees was legally no longer in existence.

32. The Chairperson of the Working Group and the representative of the Centre for Human Rights stated that the Voluntary Trust Fund was still in existence and that those members of the Board of Trustees who had expressed their willingness to continue their work remained in office until further notice.

33. Mrs. Ferriol Echevarría observed that all participants in the Working Group's sessions were aware of and alive to the difficulties with which the Voluntary Trust Fund had to contend, whereas participants in the work of the Sub-Commission and the Commission on Human Rights were far less so. She proposed that the Working Group should appeal to the Secretary-General to appoint the two missing members to the Board of Trustees as quickly as possible in order to enable the Board to continue its activities despite all the difficulties.

34. Mr. Maxim observed that the members of the Board of Trustees were far away and had no opportunity to meet regularly in search of solutions. He suggested that the Secretary-General should contemplate entrusting the duties of the Board of Trustees temporarily to the members of the Working Group. The Working Group's terms of reference and those of the Voluntary Trust Fund were closely related.

V. REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD OF CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY AND MEASURES TO PREVENT AND REPRESS ALL CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

A. Suppression of the traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others

35. The observer for the International Abolitionist Federation (IAF) (France) stated that prostitution should no longer be regarded as a necessary evil and must be rejected. Prostitution was an assault on a person's integrity, dignity and identity. It was not the result of a free and voluntary step and reduced the individual to confinement and the status of a sex object. She defined prostitution as trade in sexual abuse and a persistent form of slavery. Prostitution was a social phenomenon linked to others such as alcoholism, drugs,

delinquency, trafficking and pornography. Sixty per cent of prostitutes had been victims of incest. In reply to questions put by Mr. Maxim concerning connections between prostitution and homosexuality, she stated that 30 per cent of prostitution was male prostitution and that most male prostitutes were homosexual. However, it was a mistake to confuse homosexual prostitution with homosexuality. With regard to sexually transmissible diseases and more particularly the AIDS virus, prostitutes were a risk group but far from the only one, especially since most of them, being aware of the risks they ran, gave priority to what was termed protected intercourse.

36. The Chairperson of the Working Group contended that children's education should play a leading part in the elimination of prostitution. Prostitution was forbidden in Muslim Arab countries. She was conscious of the need to provide former prostitutes with an alternative occupation; that might seem utopian in countries where a high proportion of the population was unemployed.

37. In the course of discussion as to whether houses of prostitution should or should not be closed down, the observer for IAF took the view that reopening such houses represented the onset of organized slavery and confinement of the most terrible kind; the "Eros Centres" in Germany were an example. The International Abolitionist Federation was opposed to prostitution, which left no room for freedom or consent.

38. The observer for the Action for Children Campaign said that one of the causes of prostitution was poverty. A case in point was that of prostitutes in the United Kingdom who prostituted themselves only intermittently as their financial needs dictated.

39. The observer for India said that questions of forced or voluntary prostitution and forced or voluntary pornography had again been discussed in the course of the negotiations for the adoption of the Programme of Action for the Prevention of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others. In that connection he asked the Working Group to examine those notions and make recommendations to the Commission on Human Rights. In his opinion it was just as impossible to speak of voluntary prostitution or voluntary pornography as to speak of voluntary bonded labour. The notion of free choice in matters of prostitution and bonded labour was a piece of hypocrisy intended to legitimize such practices. He considered it necessary that international standards condemning prostitution should be adopted and should be recognized by the international community.

40. The observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran said that countries which made more than $12 billion from the sale of pornographic films could hardly condemn pornography.

41. The observer for the International Abolitionist Federation (Brazil) reminded the Working Group that a World Congress on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children was to be held at Stockholm from 27 to 31 August. In that connection he submitted to the members of the Working Group the recommendations of the regional seminar against sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in the Americas which had been held at Brasilia from 16 to 20 April 1996. The participants in the seminar had reaffirmed among other things that all forms of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents were violations of human rights; that there was a connection between the sexual

exploitation of children and adolescents and the exploitation of women; and that the victims of sexual exploitation came mainly from the least-protected sectors of society, in this case children, adolescents, women, blacks and Indian populations. The participants in the seminar had further suggested that a system should be established in the United Nations to follow up the implementation and development of plans to put an end to the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in the Americas.

42. The Chairperson of the Working Group took the view that the Stockholm Congress, in limiting its field of application solely to commercial sexual exploitation of children, was unduly restrictive.

43. The observer for IAF (Switzerland) said that, as early as the preparatory work for the Stockholm Congress, the non-governmental organizations had tried to have the title of the Congress changed so as to feature the notion of sexual exploitation without mentioning the commercial aspect. They had come up against opposition from the Nordic countries, which had wished to limit discussion to organized traffic in children. In practice, however, the matters discussed in preparation for the Congress had paid no further heed to the commercial aspect. She mentioned three studies prepared for the Stockholm Congress by certain non-governmental organizations. The first study, on the sexual exploitation of children in time of armed conflicts, established the link between the violence of war and the sexual exploitation of women and children. The second study concerned the sexual exploitation of children in certain countries of North Africa and the Middle East, and the third examined means of preventing sexual exploitation and rehabilitating its victims from the psychosocial standpoint.

B. Illegal adoptions

44. The observer for the International Federation of University Women mentioned the report submitted by Defence for Children International on illegal adoptions in Latin America. A case recently brought to her organization's notice concerned a man originating from a Western European country who, under cover of a humanitarian association dealing with children abandoned in Eastern European countries, had begun trafficking in children. It had been established that the man, who had himself adopted five children, was a paedophile. She was convinced that good systems of national legislation had the power to put an end to such traffic, or at any rate to curb it. Article 21, paragraphs (b) and (d), of the Convention on the Rights of the Child were open to criticism; in 1989 the draft article 21 had been discussed at length in the Working Group, which had recommended without success that the article should be revised to prevent adoption from being used for gain. It was to be hoped that the Working Group would be more closely involved in the work of the Commission on Human Rights Working Group responsible for drafting an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child concerning the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

45. Mr. Maxim informed the Working Group of attempted illegal adoptions and traffic in children involving Romania. In one case, British citizens had offered a Romanian orphanage humanitarian assistance. When the British authorities learned of that move, they had been able to warn the Romanian authorities that the individuals concerned were paedophiles. In another case a British couple had gone to Romania to buy a baby and had hidden the baby in the boot of their car on leaving the country. To his regret, an element of the United Kingdom press

had taken up the case solely in order to denounce the treatment meted out to the couple by the Romanian authorities, while concealing the circumstances in which they had been arrested. Since 1989, after a period of transition during which the country had been the scene of what were termed "wild" adoptions, Romania had enacted legislation to control adoptions, especially transnational adoptions. The enactment of that law had been fiercely criticized abroad and Romania had even been accused of anti-democratic behaviour. He had been greatly disappointed by such accusations, which seemed to him unwarranted.

46. The observer for the Action for Children Campaign suggested that the Working Group should encourage ratification of the Hague Convention of 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.

47. The observer for IAF (Brazil) mentioned two cases of pseudo-legal adoption in which two little girls had been sold and taken to Italy.

48. Mrs. Ferriol Echevarría said that all countries knew of cases of illegal adoption. Whereas in so-called developing countries such practices might be explained by poverty, the reasons seemed less evident in so-called developed countries. She nevertheless recommended that non-governmental organizations mentioning specific cases should strictly check the facts, follow up the cases, and above all avoid generalizing on the basis of a few isolated cases.

49. In order to avoid any possible ambiguity, the Chairperson of the Working Group proposed that the draft agenda for the Working Group's twenty-second session should henceforth refer, not to illegal adoptions, but to illegal or pseudo-legal adoptions aiming at the exploitation of children.

C. Traffic in human organs and tissues

50. The observer for the Action for Children Campaign mentioned the case of women reported to have been forced to have abortions. The tissues of the aborted infants were said to be used for transplants. He considered it urgently necessary that legislation should be enacted to protect aborted infants.

51. The Chairperson of the Working Group welcomed Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/61 requesting the Secretary-General to examine the reliability of allegations regarding the removal of organs and tissues of children and adults for commercial purposes. The Working Group had initiated that request; pending the Secretary-General's report, the Group would continue to study the subject.

D. Bonded labour and child labour

52. In view of their closely related subject-matter, the Working Group examined items 5 (d) and 5 (e) together.

53. The observer for the South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude said that, although India had celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Act of 1976 to abolish the bonded labour system, more than 55 million children were being kept in bondage. It was also a matter for regret that, on the tenth anniversary of the passage of the Act prohibiting child labour, the political and administrative will to abolish the bonded labour of children was still lacking. There was no machinery for giving effect to the Act and no system of

rehabilitation for children who had been kept in bondage. Moreover the phenomenon of the flight from the countryside favoured the exploitation of women and children. He recommended the appointment of a special rapporteur to study the question of child labour and bonded labour in South Asia.

54. The observer for Anti-Slavery International made a statement on bonded labour in India. The Supreme Court had ordered surveys in 13 States which had reported that bonded labour no longer existed. The attention of the members of the Working Group was drawn to the report published after the survey made in the State of Tamil Nadu, which had revealed that there were a million bonded workers and that bonded labour was employed in 23 districts of the State and more than 20 sectors of occupational activity. The survey had also revealed that the "vigilance committees" set up to identify persons in bondage were not operational.

55. The observer for India said that abolishing child labour was a priority for his Government. The Indian Government had decided to tackle the problem holistically and had adopted several measures on those lines: legislative and administrative measures, school programmes, information campaigns, anti-poverty measures, literacy campaigns among parents, and rehabilitation of working children. No phenomenon, and especially not bonded labour or child labour, could be examined outside its socio-economic context. Poverty was no justification for exploiting children, but was nevertheless an inescapable reality in certain countries. His Government was going to establish vigilance committees, for which the law already made provision, and to take a decision on setting up a national commission on bonded labour. His Government invited all actors in civil society to join the fight against bonded and child labour, and thus the fight against poverty.

56. The observer for the Informal Sector Service Centre made a statement on bonded labour in Nepal. Bonded labour was used extensively in agriculture, especially the "Kamaiya" system involving the purchase and sale of individuals to till the soil. Under that system whole families could be kept in bondage for generations, and current studies showed that it existed in several districts of the country. No detailed research had been done on the subject, but the number of bonded workers was estimated in the tens of thousands. Nepal had indeed ratified the Slavery Convention of 1926 and the Supplementary Convention of 1956, but it had not enacted any legislation to abolish bonded labour.

57. The observer for Anti-Slavery International stated that Mr. Ehsan Ullah Khan, the President of the Bonded Labour Liberation Front in Pakistan, had been the victim of police harassment and a campaign of repression had been directed against his organization after he had criticized the Government concerning the death of Iqbal Masih. It should be noted that, a year after the murder, the boy's presumed murderer had still not been brought to trial. Furthermore he found it regrettable that, despite the legislative and regulatory efforts made in Pakistan, including the launch of the National Project for the Rehabilitation of Child Labour that aimed at rehabilitating 3,000 children in two years, and the adoption of the Bonded Labour System Abolition Rules specifying the measures to be taken at province and district level, bonded labour remained a reality.

58. The observer for Pakistan said that her Government in no way sought to justify bonded labour or child labour and acknowledged that it was confronted by those problems. Those phenomena were aggravated by poverty and other socio-

economic factors. In order to obtain exact information on the extent of the phenomenon in the country, Pakistan had requested the ILO, under its International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour, to prepare a study on the subject; the results of the study would be transmitted to the Working Group. Surprise inspections at certain establishments had led to the punishment of employers of child labour; the courts had delivered 774 convictions between January 1995 and March 1996. The struggle against child labour was a priority for her Government and the Prime Minister herself was committed to it. Pakistan had established rehabilitation centres for working children in order to provide them with an alternative, and the vigilance committees had made it possible to free a great many bonded workers. She also made a statement on the case of the boy Iqbal Masih, who had been killed in 1995. The inquiry conducted by a judge and by the members of the independent Human Rights Court of Pakistan had revealed that the death had been accidental. She regretted that the Bonded Labour Liberation Front active in Pakistan should have used Iqbal Masih's death for purely political purposes.

59. The observer for the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery acknowledged that India, in common with most countries confronted with the problem of bonded labour and child labour, had enacted laws to abolish those practices. It seemed, however, that there were difficulties in giving effect to those laws. India had a legalistic approach, holding that it was for the bonded worker to prove his status. In practice it was virtually impossible for a bonded worker, who was usually illiterate, to produce valid evidence in court. He proposed that the minimum wage criterion should be used as evidence. As to child labour, rather than leave the burden of proof resting on the child, it would be appropriate to use the criterion of quality education, which would require the child to have a sufficient number of hours for his education and the occupational activity to be marginal. He warned non-governmental organizations against the temptation to exploit unhappy events such as the death of Iqbal Masih for purposes other than the elimination of bonded labour. Digressions and gratuitous accusations should be avoided. He regretted that States which recommended the application of the social clause were rendering no assistance to bonded workers.

60. The observer for Pakistan thanked the observer for the Board of Trustees of the Fund for his moderation with regard to the death of Iqbal Masih. She proposed that a comparative study of the legislation, regulations and measures adopted in India and Pakistan on bonded labour and child labour should be prepared and submitted to the Working Group.

61. The Chairperson of the Working Group reminded the Group of the calm in which it has examined the case of Iqbal Masih's murder and the extreme diligence with which the observer for Pakistan had communicated all information on the subject to the Working Group.

62. Mr. Maxim noted with bitter regret that, although it was forbidden in most countries, child labour remained an unhappy reality. Legislation should therefore be enacted prohibiting the employment of infants and laying down strict conditions for children compelled to work.

63. Mrs. Ferriol Echevarría observed that the Working Group was faced with a wide range of problems that ought to be studied in their socio-economic, historical and other contexts. Most of those problems stemmed from poverty,

making the elimination of poverty and the right to development a priority for many countries. The dialogue established between the Working Group and Governments seemed to her a very favourable development.

64. The observer for Brazil stated that, although forced labour and child labour were forbidden by law, those practices persisted in his country. Those phenomena were closely bound up with the economic situation. The Government had taken steps to apply the legislation throughout its territory. The secretariat of the Labour Inspectorate was working in collaboration with the ILO and UNICEF to establish priority regions for the implementation of projects to eliminate child labour and the Government was participating in the ILO International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour.

65. The observer for the International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour drew the Working Group's attention to the report submitted by the ILO on child labour and to the record of the Ministerial Conference on the subject. At that Conference the Norwegian Minister of Labour had announced that a conference on the most intolerable forms of child labour would be held in 1997. The International Organization of Employers, which had more than 120 members, had prepared for employers' use a handbook on child labour.

E. Forced labour

66. The observer for Anti-Slavery International submitted to the members of the Working Group a dossier prepared by the Burma Peace Foundation on forced labour in Myanmar. The dossier established that forced labour had been used for operations in which military equipment had been carried by civilian populations; for infrastructure projects including the laying of railway lines, airport runways and roads and the construction of hydroelectric power stations; and for the maintenance of military equipment and camps. Many cases of resort to forced labour were said to have been reported in regions where foreign companies were prospecting for oil and gas or financing tourist projects. A link therefore appeared to exist between forced labour and international trade. The study showed that the use of forced labour had been stepped up in the last four years and affected the civilian and especially the rural population, more specifically the Shan, Karenni, Karen and Mon peoples. The areas most affected by the problem were the zones on the frontier with Thailand.

67. The observer for the Action for Children Campaign presented to the Working Group a video report on forced labour in Myanmar and the use of prisoners to lay railway lines, including the famous railway given the name of Ye-Tavoy. Children, because of their agility and small size, had been used to prepare the bricks. The report denounced the connivance of foreign investors who financed tourist projects exploiting the forced labour of prisoners.

68. The Permanent Mission of Myanmar presented to the Working Group a report on the inauguration of the Ye-Tavoy railway which established that the railway had been built by the efforts of the national army, and not by prisoners.

69. The Working Group heard the evidence of a British civilian who had survived the Japanese labour camps during the Second World War and who was president of the Association of British Civilian Internees. He reminded the Working Group that thousands of British civilians had been subjected to forced labour and ill-treatment by the Japanese armed forces. His Association had asked

the Japanese Government to apologize to the victims and their families and to pay them compensation. To his regret, the apology made by the Japanese Prime Minister had not expressed any profound remorse for the deeds committed by the Japanese forces. He had therefore launched a fresh appeal to the Japanese Government.

70. The observer for the Action for Children Campaign pointed out to the Group's members that those civilians had suffered organized rape and had been subjected to forced labour; that the Japanese Government had not denied the facts; and that neither the victims nor their families had been compensated.

F. Migrant workers

71. The observer for Anti-Slavery International drew the Working Group's attention to the extreme vulnerability of migrant workers, especially those living under conditions of near-slavery in several Gulf countries such as Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. The confiscation of their passports by employers and the non-remuneration of their work for months on end denied them all freedom of movement and turned them into bonded labourers. He asked the Working Group to appeal to the Governments to arrange for regular work permits to be issued to such workers; to grant them the status of migrant workers, thereby enabling them to claim legal protection; and to prohibit the confiscation of their passports. In the cases which had been brought to the attention of Anti-Slavery International, the embassies had refused to issue temporary passports to their nationals to leave the countries where they were working. He appealed to the Working Group to propose recommendations that would afford migrant workers greater protection.

72. In the course of his statement, he presented to the Working Group a report on the case of a Philippine citizen who had gone to Saudi Arabia as a domestic worker. The report stated that the young woman's passport had been confiscated and referred to her solitude, her physical and psychological ill-treatment and the fact that her work had gone unpaid for six months. The report expressed regret that the young woman, who had escaped and wished to return to her own country, had been unable to obtain any assistance from the Philippine consulate; the consulate had claimed to be unable to do anything until the young woman recovered her passport, which had remained in her employers' hands.

73. The observer for the Philippines said that the Philippine Government had taken many steps to protect its nationals working abroad.

74. The observer for Kalayaan mentioned the case of migrant domestic workers in the United Kingdom. Domestic workers were admitted to the United Kingdom under a concession or exception to the Immigration Act. As a result, such workers were subject neither to the Immigration Act nor to British labour law. They did not have an ordinary work permit and were permitted to work only for one particular employer, whose name was written on their passport. That phenomenon, however, was not peculiar to the United Kingdom but also existed in other European countries such as the Netherlands and Greece. Kalayaan had tried to persuade various European countries to make it possible for domestic workers to leave an abusive employer and grant them the status of workers and not of servants. It should be remembered that most of the victims of abuse were women and that poverty was the main cause of their decision to leave their country of origin and work abroad. When they arrived at the workplace, such women had

systematically to reimburse the employer for their travelling expenses and the administrative formalities. It should also be remembered that structural adjustment programmes had been a means for the so-called developed countries to maintain their economic and social domination over the countries forming the pool of cheap manpower. She asked that a study should be made of the status of migrant domestic workers, their working conditions and the violations of human rights to which they were subjected, and that they should have the right and freedom to change employers.

75. The second observer for Kalayaan informed the Working Group of the case of two young women, one of whom had been only 16 years old at the time, and who had been domestic employees in Greece. They had suffered various abuses including confiscation of their passports, non-remuneration, physical violence and others. Official statistics listed 690,000 migrant domestic workers in France and 600,000 in Spain. In reality the organizations for the protection of migrant workers mentioned more than a million migrant workers in Europe. A large proportion of migrant domestic workers in Europe were said to have no work permits and hence to be neither registered nor protected by law. The migrant workers' organizations in Italy, Spain, Greece and France recognized that domestic workers accounted for the great majority of migrant workers, that the majority of them were women, and that most had neither a regular work permit nor a regular residence permit. They were therefore kept in concealment, in a situation of total dependence on their employer. Kalayaan had launched an appeal to Governments to grant a regular work permit to migrant domestic workers.

76. The members of the Working Group urged all Governments to ratify the International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

G. Activities of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

77. With reference to the report by the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, which had been submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-second session (E/CN.4/1996/100), the observer for India noted that, despite all the measures which had been taken by Governments, children were still suffering abuse and sexual exploitation. In his opinion such exploitation had a direct connection with sexual tourism. India, which was very active in drafting the optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child concerning the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, wished the question of sexual tourism to be included in the protocol.

78. The observer for the Action for Children Campaign welcomed the adoption by certain countries of legislation on extraterritoriality under which sexual tourists could be prosecuted in their own country for acts comitted abroad. He drew the Working Group's attention to the dangers of Internet being used to encourage sexual tourism.

79. The observer for Peru drew attention to paragraph 107 of the report submitted to the Commission on Human Rights by the Special Rapporteur. As a matter of form, that paragraph of factual information should not have been in the section dealing with national legislation. As a matter of substance, Peru was represented in that paragraph as one of the countries in which child

prostitution was more of a problem than in others. In his opinion the wording of the paragraph exaggerated the seriousness of the situation in his country. He was, however, prepared to revise his statement if comparative information should show that the situation in Peru was among the most serious.

80. The observer for IAF (Brazil) referred to the problem of the prostitution of little girls in rural areas of Brazil and the case of seven-to-eight-year-old children living by prostitution. In São Paulo some 500,000 prostitutes were understood to be minors aged 16 to 18. Sexual tourism was an aggravating factor in child prostitution; the phenomenon concerned boys as much as girls. The increase in male, and especially boy, prostitution in certain States of Brazil was closely bound up with drug abuse. Sexual tourism had been denounced in the Brazilian press, which had been referring to paedophile nationals of Western European countries, but it was difficult to obtain reliable information on the precise extent of the phenomenon.

81. The observer for Brazil expressed regret that he had no exact information on the situation with regard to child prostitution in his country; he could affirm, however, that the matter was receiving the sustained attention of the Federal Government. In the State of Recife what were termed "halfway houses" had been established in which young female prostitutes could take refuge.

82. The observer for IAF (Brazil) pointed out that the "halfway houses" were the outcome of private, not public, initiative. The girls who took refuge there were free to stay or to leave. In the words of the lady who had founded the halfway houses, "When a little girl has spent six months in the street, she is irrecoverable."

83. Mr. Maxim observed that the Church, as a component of civil society, had a great part to play in the struggle against social drift.

84. The observer for the Action for Children Campaign presented to the Working Group a video report on child prostitution in the district of Cleveland, United Kingdom. Most of the girls who prostituted themselves had been sexually abused in childhood, either by a family member or by an outsider.

85. The participants in the work of the Working Group expressed regret that the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography was not present at the Group's session.

H. Activities of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women

86. The observer for the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR) found it regrettable that the Japanese Government should have led the Japanese Parliament to believe that, after the Special Rapporteur on violence against women had visited Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Commission on Human Rights had rejected his report. He also regretted the deliberate errors which the Government had made in translating that report. Where the Special Rapporteur recommended the establishment of a special administrative tribunal, the Japanese text of the document referred to the establishment of a special administrative court; the Japanese Constitution prohibited the establishment of special courts of any kind. He also mentioned the victims' opposition to the Fund of private contributions.

87. The observer for the Asian Women's Human Rights Council made a statement concerning the more than 200,000 Asian women who had been subjected to rape and military sexual violence by the Japanese armed forces during the Second World War. The Special Rapprteur on violence against women had described those acts as "war crimes" and "cases of military sexual slavery". All the survivors, especially the Philippine citizens, welcomed the report which the Special Rapporteur had submitted after his visit. They asked the Japanese Government for a sincere apology and fair reparation, but refused to be granted compensation out of an Asian Women's Fund financed from private sources. The Working Group had heard the testimony of a survivor from the Philippines who had been the victim of systematic rape and who wished to obtain reparation for the crimes committed in order to recover her dignity and honour.

88. The observer for the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches denounced what he described as manoeuvres on the part of certain members of the Japanese Government. They had knowingly misled the members of the Japanese Parliament by asserting that the Commission on Human Rights had rejected the report submitted by the Special Rapporteur after his visits. Speaking also on behalf of other non-governmental organizations in the Philippines, Indonesia and Japan, he expressed his opposition to the establishment of the Asian Women's Fund financed out of private capital so as to allow the Japanese Government to evade its legal obligations. He launched an appeal for no contributions to be made to that Fund. Lastly he regretted that the Japanese Government was persisting in its refusal to attend the Permanent Court of Arbitration and to grant compensation to the victims individually.

89. The observer for Liberation, speaking on behalf of the team inquiring into the truth concerning Korean forced labourers in Japan, welcomed the report submitted by the Special Rapporteur. The Japanese Government's position was inconsistent. It had tried to conceal documents proving the crimes committed by its armed forced during the Second World War; it had declared that the colonial rules applied against Korea had been legal and that the forced recruitment of workers and military sexual slavery had been justified; yet it was establishing a Fund of private contributions to compensate the so-called "comfort women".

90. The observer for the International Fellowship of Reconciliation welcomed the report of the Special Rapporteur, which contained sufficient proof of military sexual slavery by the forces of the Japanese Imperial Army. The Japanese Government should shoulder its responsibilities by proposing a law to compensate the victims and prosecute those who could be held responsible for those violations of international law.

91. He added that the authorities of Taiwan (Province of China) had also welcomed the Special Rapporteur's report and supported his recommendations, just as they rejected the idea that compensation for the victims should be paid out of the Fund of private contributions.

92. The observer for Japan reminded the Working Group that his Government had informed it at its twentieth session of the measures it had taken on the subject of the so-called "comfort women". His Government had repeatedly expressed profound and sincere remorse and apologized to all the victims without exception. Complaints relating to the war had been settled in accordance with the relevant international agreements. In August 1994 the Prime Minister had

launched the "Peace, Friendship and Exchange" initiative for the purpose of supporting historical research and exchange programmes to promote dialogue and mutual understanding. A Centre for Historical Documents on Asia had been established in the process, and the establishment of a centre on modern relations between Japan and Asia was under consideration. The Asian Women's Fund had been instituted in response to an appeal launched by Japanese civil society; it represented a means for all Japanese to express their remorse to all the victims, and in no sense a way for Japan to evade its responsibilities. Fuller information on Japanese policy on the subject was available in document E/CN.4/1996/137.

93. The observer for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea also commended the work of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, which had clearly established, following the Special Rapporteur's visit, the atrocities committed by the Japanese armed forces during the Second World War. He found it regrettable that the Government should wish to evade its responsibilities by using the Fund of private compensation and that certain parliamentarians should have declared that the question of so-called "comfort women" was not based on any historical facts, that the Japanese army had recuited those women for commercial activities, and that they had not been subjected to any constraint. The Koreans living in Japan were still the victims of discriminatory behaviour and even physical attack; 13 cases of physical violence against Koreans in Japan had been placed on record between 11 and 29 April 1996. The Japanese Government should clearly acknowledge its responsibility, express profound remorse and present its sincere apologies to the victims.

94. The observer for the Republic of Korea reminded the Working Group that the Commission on Human Rights, at its last session, had commended the work of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women. He welcomed the appointment of Ms. L. Chavez as Special Rapporteur on systematic rape, sexual slavery and slavery-like practices during wartime, including internal armed conflict; her activities should cover, among other things, the question of so-called "comfort women". His Government was satisfied with the action taken on the subject by the Commission on Human Rights.

95. The Chairperson of the Working Group suggested that steps should be taken to inform and alert Japanese parliamentarians on the subject of comfort women. The Inter-Parliamentary Union had a part to play in that connection.

I. Other matters, including early marriages, incest and detained juveniles

96. The observer for the World Federalist Movement drew the attention of the Working Group's members to an appeal launched by Christian Solidarity International concerning tens of thousands of children who had been seized from their families by the army of the Islamic National Front and taken to the northern Sudan as slaves. Those children were converted to Islam and given "Arabic" names. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan had affirmed in his various reports that slavery existed on a large scale in the Sudan. The Government of the Sudan continued to deny that slavery was practised in that country.

97. The observer for Anti-Slavery International said that the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan had regularly informed the international community of slavery-like practices in the Sudan. Many non-

governmental organizations, especially Christian Solidarity International of which two representatives had gone to Bahr al-Ghazal, in the northern Sudan, in May 1996, had reported cases of women and children being seized from their families and taken to the north of the country to work as servants or in other capacities without pay. The Sudanese Government had always denied those practices and had even refused to invite the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights to appraise the facts in situ. Human Rights Watch had found it regrettable that the police and the courts did not apply the anti-slavery laws whenever cases were brought to their notice.

98. The observer for the Sudan, replying to the statements made on the subject, affirmed that all allegations of slavery-like practices in the Sudan were published by opponents to the Sudanese regime. Slavery did not exist in the Sudan, but there were always tribal conflicts over the sharing of grazing and water. The Sudanese Government did its best to end such clashes by offering to arbitrate. The Sudanese Government had established a special committee to inquire into and report on cases of forced or involuntary disappearance and allegations of slavery, and had invited some of the Special Rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights and the members of the Working Group to visit the country.

99. The observer for Anti-Slavery International expressed regret that the special committee established to nquire into and report on cases of forced or involuntary disappearance and allegations of slavery should be composed of representatives of the Ministry of the Interior and not of independent persons of eminence.

100. The observer for SOS Slavery said that the Mauritanian Government had not yet adopted any text to give effect to the 1981 Ordinance abolishing slavery; that meant that the practice of slavery could be continued with complete impunity. Although the Mauritanian Government continued to conceal the problem by seeking to deny its existence, it had nevertheless led to the establishment of a committee on the eradication of the consequences of slavery. He mentioned the specific case of women who had escaped from their masters and were trying to recover their kidnapped children. Women and children constituted the most vulnerable groups in Mauritanian society and were consequently the main victims of slavery. No arrangements had been made to take in men or women who succeeded in leaving their masters, and women often had no choice but prostitution, domestic work in middle-class families or manual work of all kinds. Slavery in Mauritania was a cultural, not a racial or an ethnic, phenomenon.

101. Mr. Bossuyt said that he had paid a visit to Mauritania in 1984 to look into the question of slavery in that country. Slavery in Mauritania was rooted in people's minds, and the international community took no interest in the matter.

102. The observer for the Action for Children Campaign suggested that the registration of births should be systematic and free of charge so that an individual's age and parentage could be proved.

103. The members of the Working Group expressed regret that the representative of Mauritania was not present.

104. The observer for IAF (Brazil) made a statement on slavery in Brazil. There were cases in which whole families were moved by lorry to properties where the entire family, including women and children, was ultimately obliged to work in order to repay the cost of transport. If often happened that children were separated from their families and went to join the pool of street children, most of whom had been abandoned or had fled from homes where they were ill-treated. Such children, having no moral or social references, formed gangs and engaged in criminal activities. Brazil's problem was bad distribution of the national wealth.

105. The observer for the Action for Children Campaign stated that cases of children being sexually abused by other children or by adolescents were increasingly often reported to his organization. Furthermore various studies showed that children who had been sexually abused were the most likely to turn prostitute. In his opinion the absence of a uniform definition of paedophilia presented a problem; the Working Group might think about harmonizing the definitions.

106. Another observer for the Action for Children Campaign again raised the problem of the sexual maltreatment of children in communities of Asian immigrants living in the United Kingdom and the disastrous psychological and cultural effects which such abuses had on the children. Sexual maltreatment often occurred within the family; she asked the Working Group to continue paying attention to the matter.

107. The first observer for the Action for Children Campaign said that cases of female circumcision in certain communities of Asian immigrants in the United Kingdom had been brought to his notice. The Working Group should examine that question.

108. The Chairperson of the Working Group pointed out that the question of traditional practices and female genital mutilation was examined in the course of the work of the Sub-Commission; she herself was to submit her final report to the Sub-Commission at its next session. Two seminars on traditional practices had been held in Asia and Africa; as a result of the Asian seminar it had been established that the phenomenon of female genital mutilation did not exist in the region except in a purely symbolical form in Malaysia and Indonesia. The Muslim sheikhs had firmly declared that female circumcision did not exist in Islam.

109. At the conclusion of the Working Group's discussions of the various items on its agenda, the Group adopted a number of recommendations which are annexed to this report.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED AT THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

A. General considerations

110. The Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery considers that slavery, in its various forms and practices, is a crime against humanity and that any acquiesence by a State in such practices, irrespective of whether it has accede to the conventions on slavery or any other relevant conventions, is a violation of basic human rights.

111. A review of the information provided to the Working Group showed that despite the progress made in the protection of human rights and the preservation of human dignity all over the world, various forms of slavery still existed and new insidious forms of slavery were emerging. The Working Group considered questions dealing in particular with child and bonded labour, sexual exploitation, in particular of children, the traffic in persons, allegations of traffic in organs, illegal adoptions, migrant and domestic workers and sexual violence during wartime. The Working Group also gave particular attention to the question of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery.

112. The Working Group welcomed the participation of several government representatives in its session, and thanked non-governmental organizations for their valuable contributions to its work and the International Criminal Police Organization for its written contributions. While noting with appreciation the presence of representatives of the World Health Organization and the International Labour Organization at the session, the Working Group expressed its regret at the absence of representatives of UNICEF and UNESCO. The Working Group hoped that representatives of UNICEF and UNESCO, the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and a representative of the Committee on the Rights of the Child would attend its future sessions.

B. Recommendations

113. The following recommendations were adopted by the Working Group at its twenty-first session:

1. General

The Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery,

Having devoted its twenty-first session to an overall evaluation of various contemporary forms of slavery,

1. Expresses its gratitude to all participants for information relating to all forms of exploitation;

2. Considers that poverty and ignorance are the main causes of contemporary forms of slavery, and urges the specialized agencies to give particular attention to poverty as a factor leading to or perpetuating slavery and slavery-like practices and to include in their technical assistance programmes activities designed to eliminate slavery and slavery-like practices;

3. Calls on all United Nations specialized agencies to cooperate with the Working Group and to coordinate their activities in seeking an integrated approach to the various problems in the fields of slavery and the slave trade, including slavery-like practices in all their manifestations;

4. Considers that effective measures should be taken to assist in protecting the rights of those suffering from contemporary forms of slavery by drawing upon the expertise of, and improving coordination and cooperation between, different United Nations bodies, organs and legal instruments dealing, directly or indirectly, with issues relating to contemporary forms of slavery;

5. Welcomes the important role that non-governmental organizations play in raising awareness of the provisions of the conventions on slavery, in particular the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery of 1956 and the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others of 1949, as well as in monitoring their implementation;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to invite news agencies, the press, television and radio to contribute to the rapid elimination of slavery in all its contemporary forms by ensuring wide and effective publicity about existing cases of slavery, the slave trade, other slavery-like practices, trafficking in persons and exploitation of the prostitution of others, as well as the activities of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery in this field, and also requests that a similar campaign of awareness be promoted by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat;

7. Notes that the status of ratifications of the two main conventions on slavery is still unsatisfactory;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to invite annually States which have not ratified the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others of 1949 and the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery of 1956 to consider ratification and to establish an informal dialogue with the Working Group on the issue;

9. Welcomes the list of States which have not yet ratified or acceded to the conventions on slavery provided by the Secretary-General, and requests him, when preparing his next report on the status and implementation of those instruments, to continue providing the members of the Working Group with such a list;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to invite all States to submit to the Working Group regular information on the situation in their countries;

11. Recommends to the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to examine ways and means of establishing a mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Convention of 1949;

12. Notes that the public concerned with slavery and slavery-like practices lacks information on the conventions;

13. Also notes that non-governmental organizations active in combating slavery-like practices consider the above-mentioned conventions to be useful instruments;

14. Recommends that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights and concerned non-governmental organizations, examine the preparation of a simplified presentation of the conventions for local populations;

15. Encourages States to promote the dissemination of information on the conventions.

2. United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

The Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery,

Considering the close relationship between its own terms of reference and those of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery,

Having examined the report on the second session of the Board of Trustees of the Fund and the information furnished by the Chairman of the Fund and the Secretariat of the Fund in the course of the Working Group's discussions,

Noting with regret that the Fund's recommendation that participation in the Working Group's twenty-first session should be facilitated for the representatives of eight non-governmental organizations had not been put into effect, a fact which was not calculated to enrich the discussions,

Sharing the feelings of frustration expressed by the representatives of non-governmental organizations in the course of the Working Group' session,

Concerned at the insufficiency of contributions to the Fund, which prevents it from carrying on the activities assigned to it,

Noting further that by the date of the Working Group's session the members of the Board of Trustees of the Fund had received no information concerning their term of office, which had expired on 31 December 1995, and that the two missing members of the Board of Trustees had not yet been replaced,

Noting with anxiety that the remoteness of the members of the Board of Trustees in different parts of the world with no means of communication placed at their disposal is affecting the search for appropriate solutions,

1. Thanks the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Fund for his constructive participation in the work of the Working Group;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to be good enough to make available to the Working Group the report which he is to prepare pursuant to paragraph 17 of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/61;

3. Suggests that the Secretary-General should contemplate entrusting the terms of reference of the Board of Trustees to the Working Group, having regard to the difficulties descibed above and with a view to greater efficiency and a reduction in operating expenses;

4. Urges all Governments, governmental and non-governmental organizations, private institutions and private individuals to respond favourably to requests for contributions to the Fund;

5. Invites a representative of the Voluntary Trust Fund to participate in the Working Group's twenty-second session;

6. Decides to re-examine the situation of the Fund at the Working Group's twenty-second session.

3. Prevention of the traffic in persons and exploitation of the prostitution of others

The Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery,

Convinced that the traffic in persons and prostitution are prejudicial to the dignity and worth of the human person,

Considering the necessity of promoting the implementation of international norms and standards on trafficking in persons and exploitation of the prostitution of others and of strengthening the mechanism of implementation as provided for in the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others of 1949,

Welcoming once again the convening of the World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children at Stockholm from 27 to 31 August 1996,

1. Welcomes the adoption by the Commission on Human Rights of the Programme of Action for the Prevention of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/28/Add.1);

2. Requests the Secretary-General to invite all States to inform the Working Group periodically of measures adopted to implement the Programme of Action and of the efficacy of such measures;

3. Recommends that the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities submit every two years a report to the Commission on Human Rights on the status of implementation by all States of the Programme of Action;

4. Recommends that Governments prohibit advertising or publicizing sex tourism and that they not facilitate other commercial activities involving sexual exploitation;

5. Encourages Governments, in cooperation with the World Health Organization and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, to establish specific projects for the protection of victims of traffic in persons and of prostitution from the risk of HIV infection and the spread of AIDS;

6. Urges States, in cooperation of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to introduce and reinforce education programmes alerting children to the risks of sexual exploitation and the consequences for individuals and for society of such exploitation;

7. Recommends that States take urgent measures, including measures of criminal law and of cooperation with other States, designed to protect minors from exposure to or involvement in pornography, and requests the Secretary-General to invite States to provide information on measures taken or already applicable;

8. Invites the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the International Telecommunication Union, to examine the adverse effect on children of new

technologies, such as the Internet, that are used to promote, inter alia, child pornography and sex tourism;

9. Recommends that national institutions for the prevention of prostitution be established in all States in order to assist in the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of prostitution;

10. Decides to continue consideration of the issues of traffic in persons, prostitution and sex tourism at its twenty-second session.

4. Illegal adoptions

The Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery,

Considering that adoption, for those cultures which accept it, is a way of guaranteeing the overall development of the child and that illegal adoptions could violate one or all of his/her rights,

Concerned at the practice of illegal adoptions or pseudolegal adoptions aiming at the exploitation of children,

Noting the information received concerning cases of children adopted for commercial purposes and any other form of traffic,

1. Urges States to take adequate steps to better regulate and monitor intercountry adoptions, including by ratifying the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption;

2. Decides to continue to give consideration to this issue at its next session.

5. Traffic in human organs and tissues

The Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery,

Concerned at information alleging that children and adults are victims of, or even killed for, the removal of organs for the purposes of commercial transplants and non-therapeutic research,

Taking note of the initiative of the Council of Europe in drafting a convention on human rights and biomedicine and a protocol on organ transplants,

Taking note also of national legislation and draft legislation for the control of removal and transplantation of organs and tissues,

1. Welcomes the adoption of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/61 of 23 April 1996 in which the Commission requested the Secretary-General to examine, in cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies, in particular the World Health Organization, as well as the International Criminal Police Organization and all relevant non-governmental organizations, the reliability of allegations regarding the removal of organs and tissues of children and adults for commercial purposes in order to enable the Commission to decide on possible follow-up in this matter;

2. Encourages the World Health Organization to continue to pay special attention to this issue, and welcomes the recommendation of the World Health Organization Advisory Committee on Health Research to set up a task force on organ transplantation;

3. Decides to continue to examine this matter in depth at its twenty-second session.

6. Eradication of bonded labour

The Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery,

Recalling that poverty is one of the causes of bonded labour,

1. Welcomes the information on bonded labour provided by Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

2. Takes note with satisfaction of the promulgation of laws against bonded labour, and appeals to Governments to adopt all measures to implement and follow up the implementation of such laws;

3. Requests the specialized agencies, in particular the international financial institutions and the development agencies of the United Nations, to ensure that the projects they support do not, in any way, use bonded labour, and notes with appreciation the information submitted by United Nations Development Programme in that regard;

4. Recommends that Governments cooperate with trade unions and employers' organizations at the national level to address the problem of bonded labour and that trade unions and employers' organizations at the local, national and international levels utilize the existing structures of the International Labour Organization dealing with violations of the relevant conventions concerning forced labour, and encourages concerned non-governmental organizations to strengthen their activities for disseminating information and advising trade unions in this regard;

5. Decides to keep this question under consideration and to assess the progress achieved, with a view to eliminating this intolerable practice.

7. Elimination of the exploitation of child labour

The Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery,

Concerned by the persistence of the exploitation of child labour and debt bondage, and aware of the necessity of studying these phenomena,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Elimination of the Exploitation of Child Labour (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/25),

Noting with satisfaction the progress achieved in certain countries by the International Programme of the Elimination of Child Labour launched by the International Labour Organization,

1. Recommends that the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, having due regard to the importance of a study on child labour take appropriate action at its forty-eighth session, inter alia by possibly appointing a special rapporteur on the exploitation of child labour and debt bondage;

2. Urges all countries, while attempting ultimately to eliminate the phenomenon of child labour, to adopt measures and regulations to protect child labourers, to ensure that their labour is not exploited and to prohibit their labour in hazardous occupations;

3. Urges States that have not yet done so to ratify the relevant International Labour Organization conventions, in particular the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (N°29) and the Convention on the Minimum Age, 1973 (N°138);

4. Requests the Secretary-General to invite all States to continue to inform the Working Group of measures adopted to implement the Programme of Action for the Elimination of the Exploitation of Child Labour.

8. Forced labour

The Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery,

Concerned at allegations that forced labour has not yet been eliminated and that forced labour for the private sector and tourist organizations is required of prisoners,

1. Reaffirms that forced labour is a contemporary forms of slavery;

2. Decides to continue to give consideration to this issue at its next session.

9. Migrant workers

The Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery,

Recalling the adoption by the General Assembly of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families in its resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990,

Noting that foreign migrant workers are frequently subject to discriminatory rules and regulations which undermine human dignity, including forcing them to live separately from their spouse and their minor children, sometimes for extended periods, and are often victims of violence, racism and xenophobia,

Noting also, in particular, cases of migrant domestic workers who are unpaid, subject to various abuses and deprived of all their rights,

1. Urges States to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;

2. Also urges States to take necessary measures to sanction employers for the confiscation of passports belonging to migrant workers, in particular, migrant domestic workers;

3. Strongly condemns practices of unequal treatment of migrant workers and the denial of their human dignity;

4. Recommends that non-governmental organizations give attention to the grave problems affecting migrant workers and provide the Working Group with information in this regard;

5. Recommends to the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities that it examine this issue at its forty-eighth session.

10. Sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

A

Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, including the problem of the adoption of children for commercial purposes

The Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery,

Having considered the report submitted by the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-second session (E/CN.4/1996/100),

1. Takes note of the information on these problems submitted by the participants at its twenty-first session, and requests the Centre for Human Rights to transmit the information to the Special Rapporteur, along with the recommendations relating to her mandate;

2. Requests the Special Rapporteur, within the framework of her mandate, to continue to pay attention to issues relating to the traffick in children, such as organ transplantation, disappearances, the purchase and sale of children, adoption for commercial purposes or exploitation, child prostitution and child pornography;

3. Invites the Special Rapporteur to participate in the twenty-second session of the Working Group;

4. Encourages all Governments to consider the creation of programmes aimed at the social rehabilitation of children involved in prostitution.

B

Programme of Action for the Prevention of the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child pornography

The Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery,

Having considered the information submitted by States, specialized agencies, the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and non-governmental organizations,

Taking into account Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/85 of 24 April 1996 in which the Commission, inter alia, decided to renew the mandate of the open-ended working group to elaborate a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,

1. Encourages the Working Group on a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography to continue its work in elaborating a draft optional protocol, and calls upon the working group to outline a framework for international cooperation to bring to an end all practices related to the sexual exploitation of children, including child sex tourism;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to invite all States to inform the Working Group of measures adopted to implement the Programme of Action for the Prevention of the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and to report to the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the Commission on Human Rights at their next sessions;

3. Recommends to the Sub-Commission to take appropriate action in this regard at its forty-eighth session.

11. Elimination of violence against women

The Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery,

Having examined the report submitted by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-second session (E/CN.4/1996/53 and Add.1 and 2),

Taking note of the information received concerning the sexual exploitation of women, as well as other forms of forced labour, during wartime,

1. Welcomes the work of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, and takes note of her report;

2. Takes note of the information provided by the Government of Japan regarding its action in relation to the issue of women sex slaves during the Second World War;

3. Considers that the prompt establishment of a Japanese administrative tribunal to deal with persons who suffered maltreatment, in particular subjection to treatment akin to slavery, would effectively settle such grievances;

4. Recalls the recommendations adopted at its nineteenth session, in particular recommendation 13, paragraphs 1 to 4, and draws the attention of the parties concerned to the possibility of making agreements on voluntary submission to a settlement mechanism;

5. Invites the Government of Japan to cooperate with the United Nations and the specialized agencies in this matter;

6. Decides to transmit the information received concerning the sexual exploitation of women and other forms of forced labour during wartime to the Special Rapporteur on the question of impunity of perpetrators of violations of human rights;

7. Invites the Special Rapporteur on violence against women to participate in the twenty-second session of the Working Group;

8. Decides to consider these issues at its next session.

12. Miscellaneous

The Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery,

Concerned at the practice of incest and sexual abuse of children inside the family, which is a common and most morally repugnant form of slavery,

1. Decides to continue to consider this item at its twenty-second session and to consider ways to combat incest and sexual abuse of children inside the family, and emphasizes the urgent need for adequate help to be offered to victims of such practices;

2. Urges Governments to make confidential facilities available for children to make disclosure of the situation and to obtain advice;

3. Urges Member States to take adequate steps to punish suitably the perpetrators of this most heinous offence;

4. Decides to continue to give particular attention to the question of domestic workers, in particular the situation of girl children, and urges Governments to ensure that protective regulations govern their employment situation and provide for safe conditions of work;

5. Takes note of the difficult situation in which girl children are living and of the need for them to be provided protection with a view to ensuring their fullest human development and participation in the life of their community;

6. Decides to continue its consideration of the items of early marriages and detained juveniles at its next session;

7. Welcomes Commission on Human Rights decision 1996/107 of 19 April 1996 in which the Commission endorsed the decision of the Sub-Commission to appoint Mrs. Linda Chavez as Special Rapporteur to undertake an in-depth study of the situation of systematic rape, sexual slavery and slavery-like practices during periods of armed conflict, and requests the Secretary-General to transmit the study to the Working Group at its next session;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to seek the views and suggestions of Member States and of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on proposals for future action of the Working Group with a view to considering their replies at forthcoming sessions of the Working Group;

9. Appeals to all Governments to send representatives to the meetings of the Working Group;

10. Encourages youth organizations as well as young persons from various non-governmental organizations to participate in the meetings of the Working Group;

11. Recommends that the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, when examining the periodic reports of States parties, give particular attention to the implementation of, respectively, articles 8 and 24 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, articles 10, 12 and 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, article 6 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and articles 32, 34 and 36 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and to include in their guidelines an item concerning contemporary forms of slavery;

12. Welcomes the written contribution made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child to the Working Group;

13. Draws the attention of the World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, to be held in Stockholm in August 1996, to the work of the Working Group, in particular issues involving children, and requests the Secretary-General to forward to the Congress all relevant documentation of the Working Group;

14. Recommends that the supervisory bodies of the International Labour Organization and the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization give particular attention in their work to the implementation of provisions and standards designed to ensure protection of children and other persons exposed to contemporary forms of slavery, such as the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the exploitation of child labour, bonded labour and the traffic in persons;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the committees mentioned above, the special rapporteurs concerned and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances the recommendations of relevance to them and the report of the Working Group;

16. Welcomes the adoption by the Commission on Human Rights of resolution 1996/61 of 23 April 1996, by which the Commission requested the Secretary-General to give effect to his decision to reassign to the Working Group a Professional staff member of the Centre for Human Rights, as was the case in the past, to work on a permanent basis to ensure continuity and close coordination within and outside the Centre for Human Rights on issues relating to contemporary forms of slavery;

17. Again requests the Secretary-General to designate the Centre for Human Rights as the focal point for the coordination of activities and the dissemination of information within the United Nations system for the suppression of contemporary forms of slavery and to report on the measures taken for that purpose to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-third session and to the Working Group at its twenty-second session;

18. Notes that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1993/48 of 28 July 1993, approved the endorsement by the Commission on Human Rights of the recommendation made by the Subcommission in its resolution 1992/2 of 14 August 1992 that the arrangements regarding the organization of the sessions of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, as contained in Commission decision 1992/115 of 3 March 1992, be repeated in subsequent years;

19. Recommends that the Subcommission, in arranging its agenda, make provision for adequate discussion of the Working Group's reports near the commencement of each session, thereby strengthening its involvement in the activities of the Working Group.

Annex I

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda.

3. Review of the implementation and follow-up to the conventions on slavery:

   (a) Status of the conventions;

   (b) Review of information received regarding the implementation of the conventions and programmes of action.

4. United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery.

5. Review of developments in the field of contemporary forms of slavery and measures to prevent and repress all contemporary forms of slavery:

   (a) Suppression of the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others;

   (b) Illegal and pseudolegal adoptions aiming at the exploitation of children;

   (c) Traffic in human organs and tissues;

   (d) Bonded labour;

   (e) Child labour;

   (f) Forced labour;

   (g) Migrant workers;

   (h) Activities of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;

   (i) Activities of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women;

   (j) World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.

   (k) Other matters, including early marriages, incest, detained juveniles and children victims of war.

6. Adoption of the report of the Working Group to the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

Annex II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Members of the Working Group

Mr. Marc Bossuyt

Mr. Osman El-Hajjé

Mrs. Marianela Ferriol Echevarría

Mr. Ioan Maxim

Mrs. Halmia E. Warzazi

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Algeria	Mr. Mohammed Hassaïne
Bangladesh	Mr. Mohamed Quayes
Brazil	Mr. Antonio Luis Espinola Salgado
China	Mrs. Zhihva Dong
Cuba	Mrs. Aymée Hernández Quesada
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Mr. Aun Myong Hun
Germany	Mr. Matthias Reischle
India	Mr. H.K. Singh Mr. Venu Rajamony
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Mr. Farhad Karimyan
Japan	Mrs. Masako Kinoshita Mr. Masaki Wada
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Mrs. Najat El Hajjaji
Mexico	Mrs. Erendira Paz Campos
Morocco	Mrs. Mina Tounsi
Pakistan	Mrs. Tehmina Janjua Mr. Murad Janjua Mr. Syrus Qazi
Peru	Mr. Luis Enrique Chavez
Philippines	Mrs. Olivia Palala
Republic of Korea	Mr. Joon-He Lee Mr. Kang Hyeon Yun
South Africa	Mr. Jack Christofides
Sudan	Mr. Alier Deng
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Colin Neil Wells

Non-member State represented by an observer

Holy See	Father Massimo de Gregori

United Nations organs

Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery	Mr. Swami Agnivesh

Specialized agencies

International Labour Organization	Mr. Max Kern Mrs. Carmen Sottas Mr. Michel Bonnet (IPEC)
World Health Organization	Mr. Sev S. Fluss Mrs. Christin Cunningham

Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

Category II

Anti-Slavery International	Mr. Mike Dottridge Mrs. Mariam Quettara
Asian Women's Human Rights Council	Mr. Ken Arimitsy Mrs. Nelia Sancho Mrs. Amonita Balajadia
Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches	Mr. Chin Sung Chung
Friends World Committee for Consultation	Mrs. Rachel Brett
International Abolitionist Federation	Mrs. Hélène Sackstein
Langenest	Mr. Jean-Pierre Barruel de Mrs. Marie-Renée Jamet
International Federation of University Women	Mrs. Maria Esperanza Ruesta de Furter
International Fellowship of Reconciliation	Mr. Gerard Jungslager Mr. Etsuro Totsuka Mr. Paul Scholte
International Service for Human Rights	Mr. Mark Thompson Mr. James Sloan Mr. Fedde Peutz
World Federalist Movement	Mr. David Littman

World Federation of Methodist Women	Mrs. Renata Bloëm

Roster

International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination	Mrs. Atsuko Tanaka
Liberation	Mr. Sung-Ho Cho

Other organizations

Action for Children Campaign	Rev. G. St.John-Willey Mrs. Sandra Khambatta Mrs. Perdeep Gill
Association of British Civilian Internees: Far East Region	Mr. Keith Martin
Informal Sector Service Centre	Mr. Sushil Pyakurel
Kalayaan	Mrs. Patricia Ready Mrs. Bridget Anderson
SOS Slavery	Mr. Boubacar Messaoud
South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude	Mr. Jai Singh

Annex III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

1. The following documents were issued for the twenty-first session:

E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/1996/L.1	Provisional agenda
E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/1996/L.1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/1996/1	Report of the Secretary-General on the review of developments in the field of contemporary forms of slavery
E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/1996/2	Note by the Secretary-General on the status of the conventions
E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/1996/3	Note by the Secretary-General on the status of the conventions
E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/1996/4	Report of the Secretary-General on traffic in human organs and tissues

2. The following documents were available for reference:

E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/25	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Elimination of the Exploitation of Child Labour
E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/28	Report of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery on its twentieth session
E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/38	Working paper on the situation of systematic rape, sexual slavery and slavery-like practices during wartime, including internal armed conflict
E/CN.4/1996/53 and Add.1 and 2	Preliminary report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences
E/CN.4/1996/86	Report of the Secretary-General on the second session of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery
E/CN.4/1996/100	Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

E/CN.4/1996/101	Report of the Working Group on the question of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prositution and child pornography, as well as basic measures needed for their eradication
E/CN.4/1996/102	Report of the Working Group on a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on involvement of children in armed conflicts on its second session